

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 086576

41

ORIGIN L-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

SP-02 OES-03 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 SS-15 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

NRC-05 ERDE-00 FEAE-00 INT-05 /111 R

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NEA/EGY - MR. SEMAKIS

NEA/IRN - MR. NAAS

NEA/INS - MR. BROWN

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R 161430Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086576

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 086576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE - BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON UN
REMOTE SENSING NEGOTIATIONS

1. THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE IS NOW ACTIVELY STUDYING THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH FROM OUTER SPACE, WITH PARTICULAR CONCENTRATION ON THE GATHERING AND DISSEMINATION OF DATA RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS THAT INVOLVED IN NASA'S EXPERIMENTAL LANDSAT PROGRAM (FORMERLY CALLED ERTS). IN REACTION TO CONCERNS THAT PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF SUCH DATA MAY JEOPARDIZE A GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO CONTROL EXPLORATION FOR AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES, BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA HAVE INTRODUCED A DRAFT TREATY WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT SENSING FOR NATURAL RESOURCES OR DISSEMINATION OF DATA OBTAIN WITHOUT THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE SENSED COUNTRY.

2. BOTH THE US AND USSR CONSIDER ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE RIGHT TO OBSERVE ANY PLACE ON EARTH FROM OUTER SPACE UNACCEPTABLE. IN RESPONSE TO THE BRAZILIAN INITIATIVE, THE USSR, TOGETHER WITH FRANCE, TABLED DRAFT PRINCIPLES WHICH PERMIT SENSING BUT PROHIBIT DISSEMINATION OF DATA TO ANYONE, INCLUDING PRIVATE CITIZENS OF SENSING COUNTRY,

WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION. USG HAS TABLED PRINCIPLES IN DEFENSE OF UNRESTRICTED RIGHT TO SENSE AND OPEN DISSEMINATION OF ALL SUCH DATA TO ANY INTERESTED PARTIES, WHETHER PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENTAL.

3. ALTHOUGH BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA HAVE OBTAINED COSPONSORSHIP OF MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND CHILE, THEY HAVE NOT YET MOVED TO GAIN FORMAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS AND THE BRAZILIANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THEIR DRAFTS. THIS COULD RESULT IN A COMBINED DRAFT AS EARLY AS THE JUNE MEETING OF THE UN OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE.

4. THE UN NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS TOPIC IN FEBRUARY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 086576

INDICATE THAT A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT YET MADE POLICY DECISIONS IN THIS AREA, AND IN PARTICULAR THAT THE GROUP OF 77 HAS NOT COALESCED AROUND ANY ONE POSITION. MOST MEMBERS OF THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (ACTION ADDRESSEES EXCEPT ZAIRE) HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED BY RELATIVELY LOW-LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM UN MISSIONS, AND FREQUENT PERSONNEL CHANGES HAVE IN MOST CASES PRECLUDED ADOPTION OF FIRM POSITIONS BECAUSE OF

UNFAMILIARITY WITH THE COMPLEX SUBJECT MATTER.

5. BECAUSE THESE ISSUES ARE OF IMPORTANCE TO THE USG AND BECAUSE WE HAVE FOUND IT INADEQUATE TO DEAL WITH MOST OF THE OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO THIS AREA BY THEIR EMBASSIES OR MISSIONS HERE, THE DEPARTMENT AND NASA WISH TO SEND A SMALL DELEGATION OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND THOSE FAMILIAR WITH THE UN NEGOTIATIONS TO ADDRESSEE POSTS IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN DETAILS OF US POSITION TO POLICY-MAKING OFFICIALS AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVELS AND TO FAMILIARIZE EMBASSY STAFF WITH COMPLEX TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVED FOR FUTURE HANDLING.

6. REPRESENTATIVES FROM HOST COUNTRIES OF ACTION ADDRESSEES HAVE SHOWN SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY IN RECENT NEGOTIATIONS THAT WE BELIEVE A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF USG POSITION COULD INHIBIT AND PERHAPS PRECLUDE THEIR SUBSCRIPTION TO BRAZILIAN-ARGENTINE RESTRICTIVE APPROACH. IF POSTS AGREE, NASA IS PREPARED TO DEVELOP ILLUSTRATED PRESENTATION WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO INTERESTS OF EACH HOST COUNTRY. IF WE ARE TO PREEMPT COALESCENCE OF SUPPORT FOR RESTRICTIVE APPROACH, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD UNDERTAKE SUCH CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THE FIRST OF JUNE AND AT THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE POLITICAL LEVEL.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM DEPARTMENT BY IMMEDIATE OF POSTS' REACTIONS TO ABOVE PROPOSAL, INCLUDING NAMES OF APPROPRIATE LOCAL OFFICIALS AND WHETHER ANY DIFFICULTY IS FORESEEN IN REACHING THEM DURING MAY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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To: KINSHASA MULTIPLE
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